

HOUSE BILL 1970

By Halford

AN ACT to designate the new Tennessee Department of Agriculture metrology laboratory in Davidson County as the "Julius T. Johnson Metrology Laboratory".

WHEREAS, Julius T. Johnson, served as the thirty-sixth commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture from January 2011 until April 2016; and

WHEREAS, Julius T. Johnson had the vision for and championed the proposal to fund and construct a state-of-the-art metrology laboratory at Ellington Agricultural Center in order to foster and support commerce throughout the State of Tennessee with respect to tracing units of measure to standards of the National Institute of Standards and Technology of the U.S. Department of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, it is right to recognize those public servants who devote themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Julius T. Johnson has been and remains dedicated to the promotion and advancement of agriculture, forestry, and related industries in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, as commissioner of agriculture, Julius T. Johnson directed the work of more than eight hundred (800) full-time and part-time employees with responsibilities including weights and measures testing and regulation, farm and agribusiness development, food safety, pesticide regulation, animal and plant health protection, forestry, and water resources management; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as commissioner of agriculture, Julius T. Johnson proved instrumental in the development of Governor Bill Haslam's Rural Challenge to grow Tennessee's agricultural and forest industries, in addition to encouraging and strengthening interagency cooperation; and

WHEREAS, prior to his appointment as commissioner, Julius T. Johnson served as an extension agent with the University of Tennessee, working with residents of rural Overton County to improve their quality of life and solve problems through the application of research and evidence-based knowledge about agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, 4-H youth development, and community development; and

WHEREAS, Julius T. Johnson provided thirty-seven years of professional dedication to the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, serving as chief administrative officer, director of research, and regional field service director; and

WHEREAS, Julius T. Johnson possesses a wealth of experience in working with citizens, government leaders, and agencies at the local, state, and federal levels, primarily on issues affecting rural Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Julius T. Johnson has been and remains very active in his community with civic involvement and particular emphasis on service, education, and youth development; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture took great strides in service of Tennesseans while Julius T. Johnson served as commissioner; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate that the metrology laboratory now under construction at the Ellington Agricultural Center be named in honor of Julius T. Johnson in recognition of his outstanding contributions to Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. The new Tennessee department of agriculture metrology lab at the Ellington Agricultural Center in Davidson County is designated the "Julius T. Johnson Metrology Laboratory".

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.